



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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On July 1, 1999, the Kansas legislature passed the Chemical Control Act. The Act established a program to clean up the hazardous chemicals associated with the manufacture of methamphetamine. This clean up program, managed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has assisted the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) and all Kansas law enforcement with the logistics of cleaning up clandestine drug labs after law enforcement has completed their investigative duties.

In light of the recent budget reductions announced by KDHE in a July 17, 2009 media release, the KBI is attempting to find an alternative to the KDHE's unfunded Clandestine Drug Lab Response Program. "Unfortunately, the current fiscal situation has left the KBI and local Kansas law enforcement with limited alternatives to the KDHE clean-up program," stated Tony Weingartner, Assistant Director of the KBI's Investigations Program. "Now when our agents complete the investigation of the meth lab crime scene, they have to call the regional Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) representative who then contacts their contractor for hazardous materials clean-up. In some instances, our agents and local law enforcement officers may wait for a clean-up crew for four to eight hours."

The KBI has asked for assistance from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to establish an alternative disposal program. A planning meeting with the DEA, KBI, KDHE, and other representatives from Kansas law enforcement agencies will occur on September 3rd in Wichita.